



Town of Warren, Rhode Island

Minutes of the Economic Development Board

The Town of Warren, RI Economic Development Board met at a Regular Meeting on July 21, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. at Warren Town Hall (Senior Center). The presiding officer was Karen Dionne. Board members present were Sara Volino, Ben Terry, Christine Lichtatz, and Stephen Smith. Mark Lombari, Spencer Morris and Kathleen Tucciarone were absent. Mo Clare was in attendance.

1. Review and Approval of Minutes from the Regular Meeting of June 16, 2014

The minutes from the regular meeting held on May 20, 2014 were reviewed by the board via email. A motion was made by Ms. Volino to accept the minutes, the motion was seconded by Mr. Terry, and all members were in favor.

Ms. Dionne welcomed new member Stephen Smith to the board.

2. Review of 2013-2014 work plan

The board review projects that were undertaken over the past year, including revision to Economic development section of the comprehensive plan, the town clean-up for the RI State Preservation Conference, and the town hall landscaping project. Ms. Dionne reported that Mr. Lombari has submitted invoices to Caroline Wells for new signs for Town Hall and the kiosk on Railroad Avenue. The board discussed the strides that were made in streamlining the business regulation process by Mr. Clare and Ms. Tucciarone in their efforts to work with RWU student interns. Unfortunately, due to staff restrictions in the Town Hall the RWU intern program will not be feasible at this time. Mr. Smith asked why it wasn't possible for the EDB to monitor the RWU student interns; Ms. Dionne stated that the project would need internal support from the town government to be successful.

The board also reviewed the ongoing business district improvement project, and discussed contacting the Department of Public Works about hanging the banners for Bristol Warren Art Night on Main Street. Mr. Clare mentioned that the DPW needs to put out benches that were purchased for the downtown area.

3. Discussion of new work plan for 2014-2015

Regarding a new work plan for the upcoming year, the board discussed focusing on developing a marketing plan for Warren. This study will require developing a clear vision and identity for the town of Warren. Possibly, the board will possibly work with other local organizations, such as Hope and Main and Discover Warren, to develop ideas to successfully market Warren as a destination for new business ventures and for tourism. The board will start to develop a marketing program at the August meeting.

A motion was made to adjourn by Ms. Dionne, the motion was seconded by Ms. Volino, and all members were in favor.

The next meeting of the EDB is scheduled for Monday, August 18, 2014.

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kristin M. MacDonald
August 18, 2014

